

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ERDA-05 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00
COME-00 DODE-00 EB-08 FEAE-00 FPC-01 H-01 INR-07
INT-05 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-05 USIA-06
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R 221001Z AUG 77
FM AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4184

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ENRG IR
SUBJ: INITIAL RETURNS ON IRAN'S GAS INJECTION PROGRAM

1. EMBASSY'S PETROLEUM OFFICER HAS RECENTLY HAD CONVERSATIONS WITH THE DEPUTY MANAGING DIRECTOR OF OSCO (THE CONSORTIUM-OWNED NIOC CONTRACTOR THAT IS RESPONSIBLE FOR EXPLORATION, DEVELOPMENT, AND PRODUCTION OF OIL IN THE KHUZESTAN OIL FIELDS) AND THE DIRECTOR FOR EXPLORATION AND PRODUCTION OF NIOC ABOUT IRAN'S GAS INJECTION PROGRAM. ALTHOUGH IT IS STILL TOO EARLY TO MAKE ANY FIRM PREDICTIONS, NIOC AND OSCO ARE ENCOURAGED BY THE RESULTS TO DATE.

2. THE INITIAL GAS INJECTION PROGRAM GOT UNDER WAY IN 1976 WITH THE INJECTION OF GAS FROM THE NAFT-SEFID RESERVOIR INTO HAFT KEL. THIS SMALL PROJECT IS LARGELY INTENDED TO BE A QUICK AND INEXPENSIVE WAY TO RESOLVE SOME OF THE UNCERTAINTIES ABOUT THE PERFORMANCE OF IRANIAN OIL RESERVOIRS UNDER GAS INJECTION. THERE HAD BEEN CONSIDERABLE CONCERN THAT AS GAS WAS INJECTED, THE GAS-OIL CONTACT (I.E., THE TOP OF THE OIL COLUMN) WOULD BE FORCED DOWN BY THE INCREASED PRESSURE OF THE DOME GAS ABOVE
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THE OIL. THIS, OF COURSE, WOULD NECESSITATE THE RE-COMPLETION OF EXISTING WELLS AND THE DRILLING OF NEW WELLS TO "CHASE" THE OIL DOWN AND IT WOULD BE AN EXPENSIVE AND INEFFICIENT UNDERTAKING.

3. INITIAL RESULTS OF THE HAFT KEL INJECTION PROGRAM HAVE BEEN FAVORABLE. RESERVOIR PRESSURE HAS BEEN

INCREASED WITH ONLY A SLIGHT DROP IN THE GAS-OIL
CONTACT. ON THE BASIS OF THE RESERVOIR STUDIES THAT
HAVE BEEN DONE AND THE PRELIMINARY RESULTS OF THE HAFT
KEL INJECTION PROJECT, NIOC ESTIMATES (OR HAS MADE AN
EDUCATED GUESS) THAT THE GAS INJECTION PROGRAM NOW BEING
IMPLEMENTED IN THE KHUZESTAN FIELDS WILL RESULT IN AN
INCREASE IN IRAN'S RECOVERABLE OIL RESERVES OF 15 RPT
15 BILLION BARRELS.

4. FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ABOUT THE PROBLEMS AND
UNCERTAINTIES INVOLVED IN IRAN'S SECONDARY RECOVERY PROGRAM,
SEE TEHRAN 6774 (1976).
SULLIVAN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 22-Aug-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition Reason:
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